

REMARKS

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 7 and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al.

In view of the rejection, claim 7 has been amended, and new claim 16 has been added. Claims 1-6 have been canceled.

In claim 7, it is clarified that the sheet determining means includes means for manually designating the manuscript sheet or the insert sheet, and means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet.

Namely, as explained in paragraph 0023 and 0024 of the specification, the operator can determine the sheet as a manuscript sheet or insert sheet and input the kind of the sheet by a button. Also, the sheet can be determined automatically by the mark on the manuscript sheet. In the invention, the image forming system employs both systems, and the operator selects one of the systems.

On page 4 of the Action, it was held that "The conveyance path means conveying the special sheet fed from the special sheet feeding means to the receiving means, and controlling the post processing means to store the transfer material and the special sheet together in page order in the receiving means, by causing the special sheet to be temporarily halted on standby on the conveyance path means, and thereafter causing the special sheet and the transfer material to be conveyed to the receiving means and stored therein in page order."

In Sato et al., as explained by the Examiner, the special sheet tray is provided for feeding special sheets, and the post processing means stores the transfer material and the special sheet. However, there is no means for manually designating the manuscript sheet or the insert sheet, and means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet. In the invention, the reading control means controls the image reading means to read the image only when

the sheet determining means determines that the sheet is the manuscript sheet.

Sato et al. does not disclose the sheet determining means, as clearly recited in claim 7, and the reading control means to read the image only when the sheet determining means determines that the sheet is the manuscript sheet. Therefore, claim 7 is not anticipated by Sato et al.

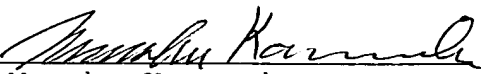
In claim 16, it is clarified that an attachment includes a sheet feeding unit for feeding a manuscript sheet and an insert sheet, and first image reading means for reading an image on the manuscript sheet and the insert sheet fed from the sheet feeding unit; and an image forming apparatus main unit attached to the attachment has second image reading means for reading an image separated from the first image reading means, and image forming means for forming the image on a copy sheet. Namely, both attachment and image forming apparatus main unit have the image reading means, separately, as clearly shown in Fig. 9.

In Sato et al., one image reader 200 is situated between an original document feeder 100 and a printer 300. No separate image reading means are formed in the document feeder and the printer. Claim 16 is not anticipated by Sato et al.

As explained above, claims pending in the application are not anticipated by Sato et al. Claims are patentable over Sato et al.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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